

[26th August 1925]

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I enquire whether this question of a leper settlement is not a matter of importance and whether this House should not be consulted before embarking on a scheme of concentrating all the lepers in one settlement which will cost something like Rs. 5 lakhs? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am afraid, Sir, my hon. Friend is not accurate in his statement, because the question was placed before this hon. House and discussed during the budget time. ”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ Have the Government taken the views of experts before they made up their minds to segregate the lepers in a place near Chingleput? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The answer is in the affirmative. ”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ Is there any difference between the policy followed by Government at present and the policy followed by Government before the removal of the lepers to Chingleput? I understand what the Government has done is simply to transfer the Leper Asylum from Rayapuram to Chingleput. ”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ My question is whether the Chingleput Municipality and this Council should not have been consulted before embarking on a policy of segregating lepers at a particular asylum ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am afraid, Sir, that my hon. Friend is not correct in his statement because this question was placed before the Council and it was discussed at the time of the budget. ”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ May I know if the Government took the advice of experts before they made up their minds to segregate all lepers in Chingleput? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The answer is in the affirmative. ”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ May I know whether there is any difference between the policy followed by the Government now and the policy followed by the Government before the removal of the Asylum from Rayapuram to Chingleput? I understand that what the Government have done is simply to transfer the Leper Asylum from Rayapuram to Chingleput. ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes; the Government have simply transferred the Asylum from one place to another. ”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I know if the Government stated that this colony is intended for 2,000 lepers from all parts of the Presidency? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ If funds are available, the Government can afford to provide accommodation for these lepers. ”

Public Health.

Audit of accounts of the Union Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Madanapalle.

* 466 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the reports on the audit of the accounts of the Union Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Madanapalle, for the years 1921-22 and 1922-23, respectively, were received by the Government and whether final orders thereon were passed by the Government, and if so, when?

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A.—The reports have not been received by the Government. The Surgeon-General has been instructed to submit them.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know the time when the audit report for the year 1921-22 was due in the office of Government?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I cannot exactly say when the report was received, but I think it was received as early as possible."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I wish to know which is the due date."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There is no due date."

Personnel of vaccinators in the Presidency.

* 467 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the remarks on page 226 of the Administration Report, Madras Presidency, 1921-22, that "personnel of vaccinators in the Presidency leaves much to be desired and it is impossible to improve it unless local bodies make up their minds to pay them adequately" and to state—

(a) whether there has been any improvement in this respect since 1921-22 throughout the Presidency;

(b) whether Government have issued instructions for the employment of a certain percentage of first-class vaccinators in each district;

(c) considering the importance of having as far as possible the best qualified vaccinators for efficient vaccination, (i) whether Government have taken steps to insist on local bodies carrying out their instructions, (ii) whether in case of default, Government have exercised powers (if any) to get the vaccinators' duties done by duly qualified men; and

(d) (i) which of the local bodies in South Kanara have employed first and second class vaccinators or men not duly qualified as vaccinators, (ii) what action Government have taken or propose to take to see that the local bodies in South Kanara employ duly qualified men as vaccinators according to their instructions?

A.—(a) There has been an increase in the pay of vaccinators since 1921-22. The average pay of a vaccinator (I class, II class and probationers combined) was Rs. 27-9-10 in 1921-22 and Rs. 31-1-4 in 1924-25. Proposals of the Director of Public Health for the revision of the pay of vaccinators are under the consideration of the Government.

(b) The Government have laid down the proportions of the various classes of vaccinators which they think should be maintained.

(c) (i) The matter is within the discretion of the local bodies employing vaccinators.

(c) (ii) & (d) (ii) The Director of Public Health is to submit a report on the vaccination staff in the Presidency with proposals for improving its efficiency, on receipt of which the action to be taken will be considered.

(d) (i) The Government have no information.